

~~1~~ 26. (Amended) A two way asymmetric network communication system for transferring data between a server and a plurality of remote devices for supporting server-client communication, the communication system comprising:

a plurality of remote interfaces associated with respective remote devices;

a downstream channel in a direct broadcast satellite network, a CATV network, or an over-the-air radio frequency transmission;

an upstream channel in [a] said CATV network, or [an] said over-the-air radio frequency transmission;

a control system acting to generate, for each remote interface, a respective signal that determines an amount of data that [the] one of said plurality of remote interfaces may send during a certain period,

wherein each remote interface includes

a receiver that receives downstream data from the server over the downstream channel, and provides [the] said downstream data to [the] an associated remote device; and

a sender that sends, during the certain period, data from the associated remote device over the upstream channel, [an] said amount of the sent data being governed by the respective signal.

In claim 27, line 2, delete "the" (third occurrence) and insert --said each--.

~~3~~ 28. (Amended) The communication system of claim ~~26~~<sup>1</sup> wherein [the control system includes a] said sender [that] sends a credit to [the remote interface] one of said plurality of remote interfaces.

~~4~~ 29. (Amended) The communication system of claim ~~26~~<sup>1</sup> wherein the control system includes logic to make the certain period of each remote interface different from the certain period of [the other] another of said plurality of remote interfaces.

<sup>5</sup>~~30~~ (Amended) The communication system of claim <sup>4</sup>~~29~~ wherein the control system includes logic to make the certain period of [a] each remote interface mutually exclusive of the certain period of [the other] another of said plurality of remote interfaces.

<sup>6</sup>~~31~~ (Amended) A two way asymmetric network communication system for transferring data between a server and a plurality of remote devices for supporting server-client communication, each remote device running a layered communication protocol, the communication system comprising:

a plurality of remote interfaces associated with respective remote devices;

a downstream channel in a direct broadcast satellite network, a CATV network, or an over-the-air radio frequency transmission;

an upstream channel in [a] said CATV network, or [an] said over-the-air radio frequency transmission;

a control system acting to generate, for each remote interface, a respective signal that determines an amount of data that [the] one of said plurality of remote interfaces may send during a certain period,

wherein each remote interface includes

a receiver that receives downstream data from the server over the downstream channel, and provides [the] said downstream data to [the] an associated remote device, such that the downstream channel is transparent to the associated remote device; and

a sender that sends, during the certain period, data from the associated remote device over the upstream channel, such that the upstream channel is transparent to the associated remote device, [an] said amount of the sent data being governed by the respective signal.

In claim 32, line 2, delete "the" (third occurrence) and insert --said each--.

<sup>8</sup>~~33~~ (Amended) The communication system of claim <sup>6</sup>~~31~~ wherein [the control system includes a] said sender [that] sends a credit to [the remote interface] at least one of said plurality of remote

interfaces.

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~~34~~. (Amended) The communication system of claim <sup>6</sup>~~31~~ wherein the control system includes logic to make the certain period of each remote interface different from the certain period of [the other] another of said plurality of remote interfaces.

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~~35~~. (Amended) The communication system of claim <sup>6</sup>~~31~~ wherein the control system includes logic to make the certain period of [a] each remote interface mutually exclusive of the certain period of [the other] another of said plurality of remote interfaces.

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~~36~~. (Amended) A two way asymmetric network communication system for transferring data between a server and a plurality of remote devices for supporting server-client communication, the communication system comprising:

a plurality of remote interfaces associated with respective remote devices;

a downstream channel in a direct broadcast satellite network, a CATV network, or an over-the-air radio frequency transmission;

an upstream channel in [a] said CATV network, or [an] said over-the-air radio frequency transmission;

a control system, common to the downstream and upstream channels, the control system acting to generate, for each remote interface, a respective signal that determines an amount of data that [the] one of the plurality of remote interfaces may send during a certain period, wherein each remote interface includes

a receiver that receives downstream data from the server over the downstream channel, and provides [the] said downstream data to [the] an associated remote device; and

a sender that sends, during the certain period, data from the associated remote device over the upstream channel, [an] said amount of the sent data being governed by the respective signal.

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In claim 37, line 2, delete "the" (third occurrence) and insert --said each--.

<sup>13</sup>~~38~~. The communication system of claim <sup>11</sup>~~36~~ wherein [the control system includes a] said sender [that] sends a credit to at least one of said plurality of the remote interfaces.

<sup>14</sup>~~39~~. (Amended) The communication system of claim <sup>11</sup>~~36~~ wherein the control system includes logic to make the certain period of each remote interface different from the certain period of [the other] another of said plurality of remote interfaces.

<sup>15</sup>~~40~~. (Amended) The communication system of claim <sup>11</sup>~~36~~ wherein the control system includes logic to make the certain period of [a] each remote interface mutually exclusive of the certain period of [the other] another of said plurality of remote interfaces.

<sup>16</sup>~~41~~. (Amended) A two way asymmetric network communication system for transferring data between a server and a plurality of remote devices for supporting server-client communication, each remote device running a layered communication protocol, the communication system comprising:

a plurality of remote interfaces associated with respective remote devices;  
a downstream channel in a direct broadcast satellite network, a CATV network, or an over-the-air radio frequency transmission;

an upstream channel in [a] said CATV network, or [an] said over-the-air radio frequency transmission;

a control system, common to the downstream and upstream channels, the control system acting to generate, for each remote interface, a respective signal that determines an amount data that [the] one of said plurality of remote interfaces may send during a certain period, wherein each remote interface includes

a receiver that receives downstream data from the server over the downstream channel, and provides [the] said downstream data to [the] an associated remote device, such that the downstream

B5 channel is transparent to the associated remote device; and

a sender that sends, during the certain period, data from the associated remote device over the upstream channel, such that the upstream channel is transparent to the associated remote device, [an] said amount of the sent data being governed by the respective signal.

In claim 42, line 2, delete "the" (third occurrence) and insert --said each--.

<sup>18</sup>~~43~~. (Amended) The communication system of claim <sup>16</sup>~~41~~ wherein [the control system includes a] said sender [that] sends a credit to at least one of said plurality of the remote interfaces.

<sup>19</sup>~~44~~. (Amended) The communication system of claim <sup>16</sup>~~41~~ wherein the control system includes logic to make the certain period of each remote interface different from the certain period of [the other] another of said plurality of remote interfaces.

B6 <sup>20</sup>~~45~~. (Amended) The communication system of claim <sup>16</sup>~~41~~ wherein the control system includes logic to make certain period of [a] each remote interface mutually exclusive of the certain period of [the other] another of said plurality of remote interfaces.

<sup>21</sup>~~46~~. (Amended) A method of operating a two way asymmetric network communication system for transferring data between a [server] host and a plurality of remote devices for supporting [server-client] communication, the communication system including a plurality of remote interfaces associated with respective remote devices, a downstream channel in a direct broadcast satellite network, a CATV network, or an over-the-air radio frequency transmission, an upstream channel in [a] said CATV network, or [an] said over-the-air radio frequency transmission, the method comprising:

generating, for each remote interface, a respective signal that determines an amount of data that [the] one of said plurality of remote interfaces may send during a certain period, and

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the following steps, performed by each remote interface, of

receiving downstream data from the [server] host over the downstream channel, and providing [the] said downstream data to [the] an associated remote; and

sending, during the certain period, data from the associated remote device over the upstream channel, [an] said amount of the sent data being governed by the respective signal.

In claim 48, line 1, delete "a" and insert thereof --said each--.

<sup>24</sup>~~49~~. (Amended) The method of claim <sup>21</sup>~~46~~ wherein the certain period of each remote interface is different from the certain period of [the other] another of said plurality of remote interfaces.

<sup>25</sup>~~50~~. (Amended) The method of claim <sup>21</sup>~~46~~ wherein the certain period of [a] each remote interface is mutually exclusive of the certain period of [the other] another of said plurality of remote interfaces.

<sup>26</sup>~~51~~. (Amended) A method of operating a two way asymmetric network communication system for transferring data between a [server] host and a plurality of remote devices for supporting [server-client] communication, each remote device running a layered communication protocol, the communication system including a plurality of remote interfaces associated with respective remote devices, a downstream channel in a direct broadcast satellite network, a CATV network, or an over-the-air radio frequency transmission, an upstream channel in [a] said CATV network, or [an] said over-the-air radio frequency transmission, the method comprising:

generating, for each remote interface, a respective signal that determines an amount of data that [the] one of said plurality of remote interfaces may send during a certain period, and the following steps, performed by each remote interface, of

receiving downstream data from the [server] host over the downstream channel, and providing [the] said downstream data to [the] an associated remote device, such that the downstream channel

37 is transparent to the associated remote device; and

sending, during the certain period, data from the associated remote device over the upstream channel, such that the upstream channel is transparent to the associated remote device, [an] said amount of the sent data being governed by the respective signal.

28/53. (Amended) The method of claim <sup>26</sup>51 wherein the certain period for [a] said each remote interface corresponds to a time between sending a credit to [the] said each remote interface and receiving another signal indicating that the remote device has completed a set of transmissions.

29/54. (Amended) The method of claim <sup>26</sup>51 wherein the certain period of each remote interface is different from the certain period of [the other] another of said plurality of remote interfaces.

30/55. (Amended) The method of claim <sup>26</sup>51 wherein the certain period of said each [a] remote interface is mutually exclusive of the certain period of [the other] another of said plurality of remote interfaces.

31/58. (Amended) A method of operating a two way asymmetric network communication system for transferring data between a [server] host and a plurality of remote devices for supporting [server-client] communication, the communication system including a plurality of remote interfaces associated with respective remote devices, a downstream channel in a direct broadcast satellite network, a CATV network, or an over-the-air radio frequency transmission, an upstream channel in [a] said CATV network, or [an] said over-the-air radio frequency transmission, and a control system common to the downstream and upstream channels, the method comprising the step, performed by the control system, of

generating, for each remote interface, a respective signal that determines an amount of data that [the] one of said plurality of remote interfaces may send during a certain period, and the following steps, performed by each remote interface, of

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receiving downstream data from the [server] over the downstream channel, and providing [the] said downstream data to [the] an associated remote device; and  
sending, during the certain period, data from the associated remote device over the upstream channel, [an] said amount of the sent data being governed by the respective signal.

In claim 58, line 1, delete "a" and insert thereof --said each--.

~~34~~<sup>31</sup> (Amended) The method of claim ~~56~~<sup>31</sup> wherein the certain period of each remote interface is different from the certain period of [the other] another of said plurality of remote interfaces.

~~35~~<sup>31</sup> (Amended) The method of claim ~~56~~<sup>31</sup> wherein the certain period of said each [a] remote interface is mutually exclusive of the certain period of [the other] another of said plurality of remote interfaces.

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~~36~~<sup>31</sup> (Amended) A method of operating a two way asymmetric network communication system for transferring data between a [server] host and a plurality of remote devices for supporting [server-client] communication, each remote device running a layered communication protocol, the communication system including a plurality of remote interfaces associated with respective remote devices, a downstream channel in a direct broadcast satellite network, a CATV network, or an over-the-air radio frequency transmission, an upstream channel in [a] said CATV network, or [an] said over-the-air radio frequency transmission, and a control system common to the downstream and upstream channels, the method comprising the step, performed by the control system, of

generating, for each remote interface, a respective signal that determines an amount of data that [the] one of said plurality of remote interfaces may send during a certain period, and the following steps, performed by each remote interface, of

receiving downstream data from the [server] over the downstream channel, and providing [the] said downstream data to [the] an associated remote device, such that the downstream channel